

APR 16 1970

INFORMATION

APR 14 1970

TOP SECRET/SENSITIVE/EYES ONLY

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Henry A. Kissinger

(Signed) HK

SUBJECT: B-52 Strikes in Northern Laos

Several interesting messages have been received from the field containing supplementary information concerning the B-52 strikes conducted on the evening of April 6-7 in the area of current fighting in northern Laos. The reports indicate that:

- It is believed that two battalions of the North Vietnamese 148th Regiment, an elite sapper company, and four other enemy units were in the target area as well as a large concentration of material stockpiled for supporting the enemy's push on Long Tieng.
- On April 7, Vang Pao's forces were able to converge with little resistance on a point due north of the target area, thus cutting off enemy personnel in the target area from their supply lines.
- Vang Pao overflow the target area on April 9 and was elated by the number of craters.
- On April 10, three friendly guerrilla companies moved through the target area against only minor enemy resistance. One group discovered an enemy command post that had been completely destroyed by the raid. They found ten bodies of North Vietnamese Army soldiers, evidence of rapid evacuation of wounded, and enemy ammunition, supplies, and other equipment in the area.
- The commander of forces which moved forward into the target area alleged that the initiative shown by his troops

USAF review completed.

TOP SECRET/SENSITIVE/EYES ONLY

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

TOP SECRET/SENSITIVE/EYES ONLY

- 2 -

was a result of the B-52 strikes.

- The strikes have kicked off Vang Pao's current patrolling and probes against enemy supply routes and forward areas.
- One of the main reasons we are still hanging on in the Long Tieng/Sam Thong area is the effectiveness of these strikes in breaking up enemy concentrations. The current lack of enemy activity in the Sam Thong area is partially attributable to the strike conducted on April 6-7.
- If we can hold the Meo stronghold in the Long Tieng area until the wet season, we will have inflicted a damaging blow to enemy objectives in Laos. The enemy must make its big push soon or find that time is running against it in its move to take Long Tieng.

TOP SECRET/SENSITIVE/EYES ONLY